

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 07/01/2008

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: Civil Rights Unit

From: Mobile

Montgomery RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED] *myk*b6  
b7CDrafted By: [REDACTED] *cmb*

Case ID #: 282A-MO-NEW

Title: UNSUB;  
JONATHON MYRICK DANIELS - VICTIM;  
CR ERA/ COLD CASE;  
CR - GOL

Synopsis: Case initiation.

Initiated: [REDACTED]

b7E

Details: Daniels was arrested during a demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, he was shot to death by a deputy sheriff.

Date of Incident: 08/20/1965

Time of Incident: :

Date of Complaint: 08/20/1965

Incident Location

Incident Street No.:

Street Name:

City: Haneville

State: AL

Zip:

Apt #:

## 1. INCIDENT:

A. Community Area: Small City or Town

B. Violence: Yes

C. Death: Yes

D. Injury: Yes

Significant Injury occurred. Victim was shot by a deputy sheriff after being released from jail.

## E. Correctional Facility:

Facility Type:

Same as Incident Address:

Facility Street No.:

Street Name:

Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

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282A-MO 45 946-1

*ODA 7/15/08*  
*8/1/08*  
*7-8-08*  
*myk*

*Source U.S. Gov't*  
*CPI*

To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-NEW, 07/01/2008

City:  
State:

Zip:

2. SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:

None

3. OTHER AGENCY INVESTIGATING:

None

4. CASE AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name: SA

Telephone(s):

E-Mail:

Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

@ic.fbi.gov

One Commerce St. #606, Montgomery, Al. 36104

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b7c

To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-NEW, 07/01/2008

LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Action)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit. For information only.

♦♦

UNCLASSIFIED

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Precedence:** ROUTINE

**Date:** 09/11/2008

**To:** Criminal Investigative

**Attn:** Civil Rights Unit

**From:** Mobile

Montgomery RA

**Contact:** SA [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

b6  
b7C

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

**Case ID #:** 282A-MO-45946 (Pending)

**Title:** UNSUB;  
JONATHON MYRICK DANIELS - VICTIM;  
CR ERA COLD CASE;  
CR - COL

**Synopsis:** To request [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Initiated:** [REDACTED]

b7E

**Details:** On 8/20/1965, Daniels was arrested during an demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, he was shot by a deputy sheriff.

An additional [REDACTED] is requested due to circumstances beyond case agent's control. Montgomery's SSRA received a transfer and case agent assumed primary relief duties. Additionally case agent has been preparing for trial, executing search warrant and assisting local agencies with Crimes Against Children matters. Case agent also has 4 additional CR cold case era cases that require assessment, investigation and travel.

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[REDACTED]

**COPY SENT TO FIG**

*9/19/08* 

*282A-MO-45946-2*

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To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 09/11/2008

LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1: (Discretionary)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit.  
For information only.

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Precedence:** ROUTINE

**Date:** 10/17/2008

**To:** Mobile  
Criminal Investigative      **Attn:** CRU

**From:** Mobile

Montgomery RA

**Contact:** SA [REDACTED]

**Approved By:** [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

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**Drafted By:** [REDACTED] *[Signature]*

**Case ID #:** 282A-MO-45946-3 (Pending)

**Title:** UNSUBS;  
JONATHON MYRICK DANIELS- VICTIM;  
CR ERA - COLD CASE  
CR -COL

**Synopsis:** To request additional [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Initiated:** [REDACTED] Additional  
[REDACTED]

b7E

**Details:** Daniels was arrested during a demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, he was shot to death by a deputy sheriff.

An additional [REDACTED] is requested due to circumstances beyond case agent's control. Case agent has 5 cold case civil rights era cases. Locating the necessary information for a complete and thorough investigation is a time consuming and difficult task. Specifically for this investigation, information has been requested from the Alabama Department of Public Safety, the United States Attorney's Office. Death certificates have also been ordered. Additionally travel to Haneville and the Lowndes County Court house will be necessary in the attempt to locate judicial information. It is anticipated the records, if any, will have to be researched without the aid of computers.

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To: Mobile From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 10/17/2008

LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Discretionary)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info.)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit.  
For information only.

♦♦

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 01/05/2009

To: Mobile

From: Mobile

Montgomery RA

Contact: SSRA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

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Case ID #: 282A-MO-45956 (Pending)  
282A-MO-45940 (Pending Inactive)  
282A-MO-45939 (Pending)  
44A-MO-45945 (Pending Inactive)  
44A-MO-45944 (Pending)

Title: Unsub(s)  
Jonathon Myrick - victim  
CR Era - Cold Case  
CR - COL

Synopsis: To request cases be re-assigned.

Details: Case agent has been promoted and is no longer in a position to carry a case load. It is requested these cases be re-assigned.

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1/7/09  
Re-assign cases  
SA [REDACTED]  
1-5-09 mef  
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282A-MO-45946-4  
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Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed [REDACTED]

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
February 20, 2009

Thomas Lemuel Coleman;  
Jonathan Myrick Daniels - Victim;  
CR Era Cold Case;  
CR - COL

In August 1965, Jonathan Daniels, white male, date of birth, March 20, 1939, and a seminary student, was arrested along with approximately 30 other people during a voting rights demonstration in Fort Deposit, Alabama. The group were all taken to the Hayneville, Alabama jail. Daniels, along with [redacted] white male, and Catholic priest, and two young black females were released on August 20, 1965.

Daniels, [redacted] and the two females, were in need of a ride back to Fort Deposit, Alabama. As they searched for a telephone near the courthouse, the females spotted a store and decided to purchase a soft drink. Thomas Coleman a part time Deputy Sheriff for Lowndes County, Alabama, saw the group approach and raised his shotgun. Daniels, was shot to death by Coleman. [redacted] received a shotgun blast to his back as he ran from Coleman.

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Thomas Coleman was indicted for Manslaughter and tried before an all white Lowndes County, Alabama jury. The Attorney General of Alabama at the time, Richmond Flowers, was so outraged that a grand jury indicted Coleman on Manslaughter charges rather than murder, that he took over the prosecution. The trial judge, refused to delay the trial until [redacted] was well enough to testify. Coleman was found not guilty.

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An article written by Tim Unsworth in March 1998 and titled "Murder in black and white", states that Coleman was tried for the death of Daniels and found not guilty. No other individuals were mentioned in the article as suspected of being involved in the shooting.

In a book written by John Hayman titled "Bitter Harvest", Hayman writes that Thomas Coleman was a part time Deputy Sheriff and known as the executioner of Lowndes County. Hayman writes that Coleman was indicted by a Lowndes County

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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282A-M2-45946-M45

One Commerce Street  
Suite 606  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Jury for Manslaughter in September 1965 and subsequently found not guilty by a jury.

An obituary that ran on June 22, 1997 in the New York Times for a Thomas L. Coleman, who died on June 13, 1997 stated in part that Coleman "killed an unarmed civil rights worker then won a jury acquittal by claiming self-defense."

According to a Lexis-Nexis report, a Tom L. Coleman, Date of Birth, September 26, 1910, who resided in Hayneville, in Lowndes County, Alabama, died on June 13, 1997. He was 86 years of age. No other individuals are known to have been involved in the shooting.

No records were located at Lowndes County Circuit Clerks office and no records were located at the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department. There are no records of the indictment or jury trial. Supposedly a fire destroyed the building these records were housed. No records have been located at the Alabama Administrative Office of Records in Montgomery, Alabama and no records have been located at the Alabama Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama. No records were located at the Federal Clerks Office, Montgomery, Alabama.

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 02/20/2009

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: Civil Rights Unit

From: Mobile

Montgomery RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

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b7C

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 282A-MO-45946 (Pending)

Title: THOMAS LEMUEL COLEMAN;  
JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS - VICTIM;  
CR ERA COLD CASE;  
CR - COL

Synopsis: To request case be closed.

Reference: 282A-MO-45946 Serial 1

Enclosure(s): Death Certificates for Jonathan Daniels and Thomas Coleman, New York Times obituary from 06/22/1997, Lexis-Nexis person report for Thomas Coleman, Excerpts from "Bitter Harvest" by John Hayman, An Article in U.S. Catholic, March 1998, from Tim Unsworth and titled "Murder in Black and White"

Details: On 8/20/1965, Daniels was arrested during an demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, Daniels and another demonstrator, [REDACTED] were shot by Lowndes County deputy sheriff Thomas L. Coleman. Daniels died instantly. [REDACTED] sustained critical wounds but survived.

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Based primarily on newspaper articles and internet search engine results the following information was gathered:

Research on this case was conducted to determine possible subjects. Per Lexis-Nexis, a Tom L. Coleman, DOB 11/26/1910, who resided in Hayneville, in Lowndes County, AL, died 06/13/1997. An obituary that ran on 06/22/1997 in the New York Times for a Thomas L. Coleman, who died on 06/13/1997, stated in

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To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 02/20/2009

part that Coleman "killed an unarmed civil rights worker then won a jury acquittal by claiming self-defense." Coleman was the only subject identified in this case.

Attached is a Letter Head Memorandum detailing the facts of the case.

It is requested the case be closed.

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To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 02/20/2009

LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Discretionary)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit. For information only.

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# ALABAMA

## Center for Health Statistics

### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH STATE OF ALABAMA

19615

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LEGAL COPIES  
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MADE IF  
ENTRIES  
ARE DIM

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IF NO DOCTOR  
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ATTENDANCE  
MEDICAL CER-  
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COMPLETED  
BY THE LOCAL  
HEALTH  
OFFICER, OR  
CORONER IF  
HE IS A  
PHYSICIAN OR  
IF INQUEST  
WAS HELD

VS-2-

1. PLACE OF DEATH a. COUNTY <b>Lowndes 43XX8</b>		b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <b>Hayneville</b>		c. IS PLACE OF DEATH INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		2. USUAL RESIDENCE (Where deceased lived, if institution; Residence before admission) a. STATE <b>New Hampshire</b>		b. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <b>Keene 43XX8</b>		c. IS RESIDENCE INSIDE CITY LIMITS? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> ON A FARM? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
d. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION <b>Hayneville</b>		e. LENGTH OF STAY IN 1b		d. STREET ADDRESS <b>61 Summer Street</b>		4. DATE OF DEATH <b>August 20, 1965</b>		5. SEX <b>Male</b>		6. COLOR OR RACE <b>White</b>	
3. NAME OF DECEASED (Type or print) <b>Jonathan Myrick Daniels</b>		7. MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/>		8. DATE OF BIRTH <b>3/20/1939</b>		9. AGE (In years last birthday) <b>26</b>		10. BIRTHPLACE (State or foreign country) <b>Keene, New Hampshire</b>		11. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY? <b>USA</b>	
13. FATHER'S NAME <b>Philip Brock Daniels</b>		14. MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME <b>Constance Weaver</b>		15. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U. S. ARMED FORCES? (Yes, no, or unknown) (If yes, give war or dates of service) <b>0</b>		16. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.		17. INFORMANT'S NAME <b>Mrs. Martin E. Daniels,</b> Address <b>Keene, New Hampshire</b>		14a. NAME OF SURVIVING SPOUSE	
18. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (a), (b), and (c).) PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: IMMEDIATE CAUSE (a) <b>Copious internal hemorrhage</b>		DUE TO (b) <b>Shot wound to chest and</b>		DUE TO (c) <b>abdomen.</b>		19. WAS AUTOPSY PERFORMED? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH <b>981X</b>		20. (Probably) ACCIDENT SUICIDE HOMICIDE <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
20a. TIME OF INJURY a. m. <b>Aug 20, '65</b> p. m.		20b. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED. (Enter nature of injury in Part I or Part II of item 18.) <b>Shot wound at close range.</b>		20c. INJURY OCCURRED WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/> NOT WHILE AT WORK <input type="checkbox"/>		20d. PLACE OF INJURY (e. g., in or about home, farm, factory, street, office) <b>near store</b>		20e. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION <b>Hayneville, Lowndes, Ala.</b>		20f. COUNTY <b>Lowndes</b>	
21. I attended the deceased from Death occurred at <b>Hayneville</b> on the date stated above; and to the best of my knowledge, from the causes stated.		22a. SIGNATURE (Signature of filer) <b>W. H. Halling, M.D., State Toxicologist, Auburn, Ala 8/24/65</b>		22b. ADDRESS <b>Keene, New Hampshire</b>		22c. DATE SIGNED <b>8/22/1965</b>		23a. BURIAL, CREMATION, REMOVAL (Specify) <b>Removal</b>		23b. DATE <b>8/22/1965</b>	
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR <b>White Chapel-Montgomery, Alabama</b>		25. DATE RECD. BY LOCAL REG. <b>SEP 16 1965</b>		26. REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE <b>Ralph W. Roberts</b>		27. NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORY <b>Keene, New Hampshire</b>		28. LOCATION (City, town, or county) <b>Keene, New Hampshire</b>		29. STATE <b>New Hampshire</b>	

I, Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar of Health Statistics, certify this is a true and exact copy of the original certificate filed in the Center for Health Statistics, State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, Montgomery, Alabama, and have caused the official seal of the Center for Health Statistics to be affixed. 2008-433-274-1

October 15, 2008

Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar

# ALABAMA

## Center for Health Statistics

### ALABAMA

### CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

97-018532

State File Number 101

County  
File  
Number --

1. DECEASED--NAME First Middle Last (Type last name all capitals) Thomas Lemuel COLEMAN, Sr.			2. DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year) June 13, 1997		3. COUNTY OF DEATH Lowndes	
4. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH AND ZIP CODE Hayneville 36040			5. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No) Yes		6. PLACE OF DEATH--HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION--(If not in either, give street and number) Alabama Highway 21	
7. IF HOSPITAL (Specify Inpatient, ER or Outpatient, DOA) No			8. OF HISPANIC ORIGIN (Specify Yes or No) If Yes, Specify Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc. No		9. RACE--(Specify American Indian, Black, White, etc.) White	
10. SEX Male			11. AGE 86 YRS		12. UNDER 1 YEAR MOS. DAYS HOURS MINS.	
13. DATE OF BIRTH (Month, Day, Year) November 26, 1910			14. DECEASED'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 420-48-5436		15. EDUCATION (Specify ONLY highest grade completed below) Elementary or High School (K-12) 12 College (1-4 or 5-+)	
16. MARITAL STATUS (Specify Married, Never Married, Widowed, Divorced) Married			17. SURVIVING SPOUSE (If wife, give maiden name) Coralie Carothers		18. Was Decedent ever in Armed Forces (Specify Yes or No) No	
19. STATE OF BIRTH (If not in USA, name country) Alabama			20. RESIDENCE--STATE Alabama		21. COUNTY Lowndes	
22. CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION AND ZIP CODE Hayneville 36040			23. INSIDE CITY LIMITS (Specify Yes or No) Yes		24. STREET AND NUMBER AL Hwy. 21 (P. O. Box 96)	
25. INFORMANT--Name and Address Tommy L. Coleman, Jr. 6006 Forest Grove Ct.; Montgomery, AL 36117			26. USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life even if retired) District Engineer		27. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY State of Alabama Highway Department	
28. FATHER--NAME First Middle Last Jessie A. Coleman			29. MOTHER--NAME First Middle Last Mary Hinson		30. DISPOSITION OF BODY (Specify Burial, Cremation, Medical Donation, Hospital Disposal, Other) Burial	
31. DATE OF DISPOSITION (Month, Day, Year) June 17, 1997			32. CEMETERY OR CREMATORY--Name Hayneville City Cem.		33. LOCATION--(City or Town--State) Hayneville, Alabama	
34. FUNERAL HOME--Name and Address Leak-Memory Chapel 945 Lincoln Rd.; Montgomery, AL 36109			35. FUNERAL DIRECTOR--Signature <i>Edward A. Jones</i>		36. DATE SIGNED BY FUNERAL DIRECTOR June 17, 1997	
37. -- Certifying Physician Physician certifying cause of death: "To the best of my knowledge death occurred at the time and date, and due to the cause(s) and manner stated." -- Medical Examiner Coroner "On the basis of examination and/or investigation, in my opinion, death occurred at the time, date, place, and due to the cause(s) and manner stated." Signature: <i>Winston P. Nigle</i>			38. DATE SIGNED (Month, Day, Year) June 19, 1997		39. TIME AND DATE OF DEATH 5:40 AM June 13, 1997	
40. DATE AND TIME PRONOUNCED DEAD (For Coroner/M.E. use only) June 13, 1997: 6:40 AM			41. NAME AND TITLE OF PERSON WHO COMPLETED CAUSE OF DEATH (Item 40) WINSTON P. NIGLE CORONER		42. ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO COMPLETED CAUSE OF DEATH (Item 40) 111 Caffey Rd Buxleyville, AL 36752	
43. REGISTRAR--Signature <i>Lina N. Garrett</i>			44. DATE FILED (Month, Day, Year) June 19, 1997		45. CERTIFIER LICENSE NUMBER	

### MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

46. PART I Enter the diseases, injuries, or complications that caused the death. Do not enter the mode of dying, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock, or heart failure. LIST ONLY ONE CAUSE ON EACH LINE. IMMEDIATE CAUSE (Final disease or condition resulting in death) → a. <u>CANCER</u> DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):			APPROXIMATE INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH		
b. DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):					
c. DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):					
d. DUE TO (OR AS A CONSEQUENCE OF):					
47. PART II Other significant conditions contributing to death but not resulting in the underlying cause given in Part I.			48. WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN LAST 42 DAYS? (Specify Yes, No, or Unknown)		
49. MANNER OF DEATH (Specify--Accident, Homicide, Suicide, Undetermined Circumstances, Pending Investigation, Natural Cause)			50. AUTOPSY (Specify Yes or No)		51. If yes, were findings considered in determining cause of death? (Specify Yes or No)
52. HOW INJURY OCCURRED (Enter nature of injury in Item 46, Part I or Item 47, Part II)			53. DATE OF INJURY (Month, Day, Year)		54. HOUR OF INJURY
55. INJURY AT WORK (Specify Yes or No)			56. PLACE OF INJURY--(Specify at home, farm, street, factory, office building, etc.)		57. LOCATION OF INJURY (Street or R.F.D. No., City or Town, State)

This is a legal record and must be filed within five (5) days after death.

REC'D JUN 24 1997

ADPH-HS 2/Rev 11-93

I, Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar of Health Statistics, certify this is a true and exact copy of the original certificate filed in the Center for Health Statistics, State of Alabama, Department of Public Health, Montgomery, Alabama, and have caused the official seal of the Center for Health Statistics to be affixed. 2008-444-232-6

*Dorothy S. Harshbarger*  
Dorothy S. Harshbarger, State Registrar

October 27, 2008



23.

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The New York Times

### View Related Topics

**June 22, 1997, Sunday, Late Edition - Final**

**NAME:** Thomas Coleman

**SECTION: Section 1; Page 26; Column 5; National Desk**

**LENGTH: 522 words**

**HEADLINE: Thomas Coleman, 86, Dies: Killed Rights Worker in '65**

BYLINE: By ROBERT McG. THOMAS Jr.

**BODY:**

**BODY:** **Thomas L. Coleman**, who killed an unarmed civil rights worker then won a jury acquittal by claiming self-defense; died on June 13 at his home in Hayneville, Ala., the scene of the infamous 1965 killing. He was 86.

Nobody was much surprised when an all-white jury found Mr. Coleman not guilty in the death of Jonathan Myrick Daniels, 26, an Episcopal seminarian from Keene, N.H. In the parlance of the times, Mr. Daniels was an outside agitator and to many of the white people of Lowndes County, where black people outnumbered white residents 4-to-1 and were kept in line by constant intimidation, that meant he was fair game, as was the Rev. Richard Morrisroe, a Roman Catholic priest who was hit in the back and severely wounded by a second blast from Mr. Coleman's shotgun. Both men were white.

Nobody gave much credence to Mr. Coleman's statement that he thought Mr. Daniels had a knife and that Father Morrisroe had a gun as they approached a store near the courthouse on Aug. 20, 1965.

Mr. Coleman, an engineer for the highway department and a member of one of the county's oldest families, was at the courthouse when Mr. Daniels, Father Morrisroe and more than 20 black companions were released from the Lowndes County jail, where they had been held on vague charges after a demonstration.

As members of the group recounted it, they were suspicious of the circumstances of their sudden release. While a young man sought a phone to call friends to pick them up, some of the others moved off toward a little store a few blocks away to buy sodas.

As the two white men and two black young women neared the store, witnesses said, Mr. Coleman, an unpaid special deputy sheriff with a pistol at his side and a 12-gauge shotgun in his arms, barred the way, telling them the store was closed and cursing the young women.

Then, as he aimed the shotgun at one of the young women and began to pull the trigger, she and other witnesses said, Mr. Daniels pushed the young women to the ground and used his body as a shield just as the gun went off, nearly tearing his body in two. A second blast struck Father Morrisroe in the back.

In the furor that followed, local officials were so openly supportive of Mr. Coleman that the Attorney General of Alabama, Richmond Flowers, outraged that a grand jury had indicted Mr. Coleman on a charge of manslaughter rather than murder, took over the prosecution. But he was thwarted by the trial judge, who refused to delay the trial until Father Morrisroe was able to testify, then removed Mr. Flowers from the case. It took the jury two hours to find Mr. Coleman not guilty.

Over the years, Mr. Coleman continued to play dominoes at the courthouse, but his cronies made a point not to discuss the events of 1965, his sister, Hulde Coleman, said.

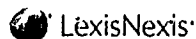
In addition to his sister, Mr. Coleman is survived by his wife, Coralle; a son, Thomas Jr. of Montgomery, Ala.; a daughter, Hulda Moseley of Macon, Ga.; a brother, Joe, of Montgomery; three sisters, Sarah Wilburn and Mable Black of Montgomery and Midwill Haigler of Hayneville, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**GRAPHIC: Photo: Thomas L. Coleman (Associated Press)**

LOAD-DATE: June 22, 1997

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## Person Report

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Others Using SSN (0)	Address Summary (1)	Voter Registrations (0)	Driver Licenses (0)
Professional Licenses (0)			
Real Property Assets (1)	Motor Vehicle Registrations (0)	Boats (0)	Aircraft (0)
Bankruptcy Information (0)	Judgments/Liens (0)	UCC Liens (0)	Potential Relatives (4)
Business Associates (0)	Person Associates (0)	Neighbors (0)	Employment Locator (0)
Sources (9)			

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Phone</b>
COLEMAN, TOM L	PO BOX 96 HAYNEVILLE, AL 36040-0096	LOWNDES	None Listed

### ADDITIONAL PERSONAL INFORMATION

<b>SSN</b>	<b>DOB</b>	<b>Gender</b>
420-48-5436 (Alabama: 1954-1955) ▲ Deceased	11/26/1910 (Would be: 98) (Date of Death: 6/13/1997)	

### Subject Summary

#### Name Variations

1: COLEMAN, TOM  
2: COLEMAN, TOM L

[View All Name Variations Sources](#)

#### SSNs Summary

<b>No. SSN</b>	<b>State Iss.</b>	<b>Date Iss.</b>
Most frequent SSN attributed to subject:		
1: 420-48-5436	Alabama	1954-1955

[View All SSN Sources](#)

#### DOBs

#### Reported DOBs:

11/26/1910

#### Warnings

▲ Deceased

[View All DOB Sources](#)

### Address Summary - 1 records found for subject.

[View All Address Variations Sources](#)

<b>No.</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1:	PO BOX 96 HAYNEVILLE, AL 36040-0096 LOWNDES COUNTY	<a href="#">View Details</a>

#### Address Details

##### 1: PO BOX 96 HAYNEVILLE, AL 36040-0096

<b>Address</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Actions</b>
PO BOX 96 HAYNEVILLE, AL 36040-0096 LOWNDES COUNTY	1/2009		
<b>Census Data for Geographical Region</b>			
Median Head of Household Age:			33
Median Income:			\$17,102
Median Home Value:			\$41,700
Median Education:			11 years
<b>Household Members</b>			
COLEMAN, COLEMAN			
COLEMAN, CORALIE			
COLEMAN, REBECA			
COLEMAN, TOMMIE			
<b>Other Associates</b>			
None Listed			

### Real Property

[View Real Property Sources](#)

#### 1: Assessment Record for LOWNDES County, AL

#### Owner Information

Name: COLEMAN T L

2/20/2009 1:43 P

South, and the number of black officeholders soon increased dramatically.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1964 Civil Rights Act together spelled the end of legal discrimination because of race. As C. Vann Woodward puts it, "Jim Crow as a legal entity was dead."<sup>60</sup> The acts gave legitimacy to the decrees of the federal courts, beginning with *Brown*. Southerners had complained with some justification that the courts were making laws instead of just enforcing them, and Congressional action on the two acts gave proper constitutional authority to federal civil rights actions.

A great victory had been won by the civil rights movement, and many, in great exultation, thought it was the ultimate human rights triumph in the United States. That idea was short-lived. Very soon, events showed that at most a major battle had been won, and that the fight ahead was still long and treacherous. In August 1965, only three months after the Voting Rights Bill was signed, major rioting broke out in Watts, a section of Los Angeles. White America was stunned to discover that the century-old promise of full equality for black citizens was still unfulfilled.

### The Hard Fight for Justice

A very difficult problem for law enforcement officials during the most bitter phase of the civil rights struggle was to get juries to convict persons who were guilty of assault and even murder. A report of the Southern Regional Council and the American Civil Liberties Union in October 1965 noted that twenty-six civil rights workers had been killed since 1960, and there had been only one conviction.<sup>61</sup>

The jury system, normally a great strength in the fight for justice in the United States, was a hindrance in this situation because the jury of peers was often in deep sympathy with the accused. Charles Morgan noted that there were two major instruments of power in maintaining segregation in the South—the mostly white electorate and the all-white jury.<sup>62</sup> Jim Crow depended on the ability to terrorize with impunity.

Another aspect of the problem was that law enforcement officers in many locations were members or supporters of the Ku Klux Klan and were themselves involved in the violence. The very people responsible for enforcing the law were undermining it, and when they committed some

outrageous act, they could depend on being acquitted.

The near impossibility of bringing the guilty to justice created a serious crisis in maintaining the rule of law. As the state's chief legal officer, Richmond Flowers was responsible for dealing with this problem. On several occasions, when it seemed that the most heinous crimes might go unpunished, he stepped in and prosecuted the case himself. When he did, he was seen by many as the enemy, part of the outside group attempting to interfere in long-established customs.

Two of the most difficult cases occurred in Hayneville, the county seat of Lowndes County in the Black Belt. "It was predominantly black down there," Richmond observes, "but not a single black had ever voted. None had ever sat on a jury, and not one had ever been to a decent school. They were just as ignorant as they could be. If one of them ever learned to read and write, he got out of Lowndes County as fast as he could." Richmond later said that trying the Klansmen in Hayneville was his worst experience as attorney general.

Richmond's first case in Hayneville involved the murder of Episcopal seminarian Jonathan Daniels. The second Hayneville case was the retrial of a Klansman accused of murdering civil rights worker Viola Liuzzo during the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. Richmond had to be escorted into and out of the courthouse for his own safety during the Liuzzo trial.

**The Daniels/Morrisroe Case.** In August 1965, Episcopal seminarian Jonathan M. Daniels, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Catholic priest Richard F. Morrisroe of Chicago were in Ft. Deposit, a small town in Lowndes County, helping blacks in a drive for voter registration. They had come south a week earlier to attend a meeting of the SCLC. Both were white. They were part of a group arrested on charges of disturbing the peace and taken to jail in Hayneville, the county seat.

One day the whole group was released from jail and told to go home. When they came out, they noticed that the streets were deserted and the town was very quiet. The group asked Daniels and Morrisroe to go to a store across the street and buy some soft drinks. They were accompanied by two young black women with whom they had been working. Part-time Deputy Sheriff T. L. Coleman shot both men with shotgun. Daniels died instantly, and Morrisroe was critically injured. The incident drew immediate attention from the national press.

In September, a Lowndes County grand jury indicted Coleman for manslaughter. Attorney General Flowers was quoted as being shocked that a first degree murder indictment was not returned.<sup>64</sup> Fearing that the county would not prosecute the case properly, the attorney general personally took over.

Richmond recalls the details. "Allegedly, Daniels and Morrisroe were protecting a girl," he says. "They had all been released at the same time. Street talk was it was a setup job. They had been in jail several days and were the talk of the area. That morning everything got real quiet in town. There was a big gathering at the sheriff's office, where a group was playing dominoes. Someone came in and whispered something to Coleman, who was in the game. He said, 'Excuse me, I gotta go. I'll be back in a minute.' Everybody looked at everybody as if this was the signal. He got up and walked across to the store with an automatic shotgun. He moved into the store, and stood halfway back out of sight so that when they came out of the sunlight and opened the door, they couldn't see him. As soon as they opened the door, he said, 'You're trespassing.' They said, 'We wanted to get a soft drink.' Coleman said something like, 'Don't take one more step,' and blueoee. He blasted with the shotgun.

"Jonathan Daniels, the Episcopal student, was hit in the midriff. It blew him across the porch out into the street, and it killed him instantly. Morrisroe turned to run, and when he had gone three or four steps, Coleman shot him in the back. The force of it blew him out in the middle of the street. He lay there a little over an hour before they could get anybody to move him. He almost died and had to stay in intensive care for months.

"They weren't going to try Coleman for anything but manslaughter. They claimed they didn't think it was murder because he pled self-defense. When I first went down there and it was manslaughter, I refused to try it. I dismissed it and told them to reconsider. When I came back, it was manslaughter again. I told the judge I wasn't ready for a manslaughter trial and asked for a postponement. He refused to delay and made me go to trial immediately. He knew I was within my rights in refusing to go to trial if I wasn't ready. But you can't blame him. He had to live down there. He had property down there. Everything in the world he had was down there.

"I didn't want to try the case without Father Morrisroe. He hung at death's door for a while; then he was a long time recuperating. He was way up East, and I didn't know whether he would testify or not. I pled with him to come back, and he turned me down twice. Finally he agreed to come. I also asked him if he would remove his habit in a public place and show the jury the horrible scar in the middle of his back. He did not have a single mark in the front, but there was this awful scar where he was shot in the back. Coleman was pleading self-defense, and yet he shot Morrisroe in the back.

"At the trial, we turned him to the jury and said, 'There, gentlemen of the jury, is that proof enough?' As he was putting his habit back on, one of the jurors says, 'Preacher, let me ask you something.' He said, 'Sure.' A jurymen's got a right to do that, though it doesn't happen very often. This man said, 'Preacher, did you kiss that little nigger girl in the mouth?' The priest said, 'I have never embraced a woman in my life.' The jurymen said, 'That ain't what we heered down here. Heheheheh.' All of them laughed and just stomped and spit. There were no blacks on this particular jury.

"Two or three defense witnesses said that they saw Daniels and Morrisroe pull something out of their pockets that looked like pistols. Now, they had just got out of the jail fifteen or twenty minutes before. Nobody found a pistol, and there was no hard evidence of one. We had witnesses who were in the ambulance with Morrisroe. We had the people who treated him in the hospital. None of them saw a pistol. But two or three of the local fellows said, 'It looked to me like he had pistol.' Defense witnesses testified that blacks had removed weapons from both men after they were shot.<sup>65</sup>

"The trial lasted just a couple of days, and it only took the jury about twenty minutes to reach a verdict. They didn't stay out any time. They cleared him on self-defense." At the time, Richmond called the verdict a terrible miscarriage of justice, and one of his aides said that work on the case would continue.<sup>66</sup> The Justice Department considered trying Coleman on charges of denying the civil rights of Daniels and Morrisroe, but no other legal action was taken.

There is no question in Richmond's mind that the shootings were intentional. "It was a premeditated thing," he says. "There wasn't any doubt that the whole thing was planned. They let those people out of jail

in order to kill them, and the executioner of the county was the one who did the killing. Coleman had already killed two other people down there.

"In the minds of those Lowndes County people, it wasn't against the law to kill a civil rights worker. I tried the case under guard. As attorney general I wouldn't go down there unless I had my own bodyguard standing immediately behind me and troopers on each side. And I wasn't just being fancy. The troopers would tell you, 'You better have protection down here in Lowndes County, especially Hayneville. There's no hate like the hate down here.'"

**The Liuzzo Case.** Viola Liuzzo, wife of a Teamster official in Detroit, was murdered while driving on the Selma-Montgomery highway. She was returning to Montgomery after transporting marchers to Selma, and was near Lowndesboro, a small town in Lowndes County. Leroy Moton, a young black man, was with her. A large contingent of newsmen was in the area to cover the march, and the blatant murder received immediate worldwide attention.

Within two days, President Johnson announced the arrest of four members of the Ku Klux Klan in connection with the slaying. Alabama Klan Wizard Robert Shelton denied that any of his members were involved. He claimed the Liuzzo killing was part of a Communist plot to denigrate the KKK and 'destroy the right wing in America.'<sup>67</sup> Governor George Wallace denounced the slaying and said he had ordered state officials to cooperate with federal agencies investigating it. He offered a \$1,000 reward for apprehension of the killers.

"The events in the Viola Gregg Liuzzo case were brutal, absolutely brutal," Richmond says. "Three of the Klansmen were from Bessemer, a suburb of Birmingham. The fourth, Gary Thomas Rowe, was from Birmingham. He turned out to be an FBI informant. Those Klansmen came down there looking for trouble. The investigators traced their steps the day of the killing and found they had been there all day riding around, but they hadn't done much. Moving in the daytime was not their thing.

"Late in the afternoon, they stopped at a service station and made some calls. Then they drove on down the highway. About twenty minutes before the shooting, they were stopped for speeding by a highway patrolman. He gave them a ticket and let them go. They were not specifically looking for Liuzzo. They would take anybody. They just

wanted to do something now. One of them testified later that the Grand Wizard of their Klan had ordered them to go down there and get someone. They spotted Mrs. Liuzzo's car and pulled up close to her. She saw them and tried to get away. Soon the two cars were running side by side at ninety miles an hour. One of the men testified that they were very close to her. Every man in the car except the driver leveled his pistol right at her, and they emptied their guns into her car. She was a perfect target. She couldn't dodge or anything at ninety miles an hour. She was just a sitting duck, and they killed her.

"The Liuzzo car slowed down and the Klansmen passed. As they watched in a rear view mirror, her car gradually lost speed, eased off the road, and sort of nudged into a fence. The driver testified he turned to Gary Thomas Rowe and said, 'Hell, you missed her.' Rowe answered, 'Missed her, hell. That bitch is dead and in hell, I guarantee you.' Moton, who was in the car with Mrs. Liuzzo, testified that he got out, jumped over the fence, and ran into the adjoining field.

"To show you the attitude we were facing," Richmond continued, "when the state found Mrs. Liuzzo's vehicle, they took her body to the state laboratory in Montgomery. The first thing they asked the laboratory to do was see 'if she's had intercourse.' She had just been shot all to pieces, and that's the first thing they asked. When you've got your state officials in that kind of shape, it's scary, and I don't mind telling you I was scared. I stayed scared a lot of the time."

**The Trial.** The trial began in Hayneville early in May. It was there, Richmond explains, because "a section of Lowndes County sticks up between Montgomery and Selma, and the highway cuts across it. As fate would have it, Mrs. Liuzzo was killed in that section, and it was necessary to try the Klansmen in Hayneville."

Joe Breck Gantt, chief trial attorney in the attorney general's office, worked on the case. "He went down there and tried it, supposedly with the help of the district attorney," Richmond recalls. "The district attorney didn't do one thing in the world, so Joe had to try the entire case. The jurors voted against first or second degree murder, but they deadlocked 10-2 on a first degree manslaughter charge. A mistrial was declared. We decided right away that the state would seek a retrial." The defendants marched in a Klan parade after the first verdict and were given a rousing ovation.<sup>68</sup>

## Untitled

Murder in black and white.  
By: Unsworth, Tim  
Publication: U.S. Catholic  
Date: Sunday, March 1 1998  
You are viewing page 1

"We been walkin' with dropped down heads, with a scrunched-up heart, and a timid body in the bushes. But we ain't scared anymore.... If you have to die, die for something."

--An elderly black farmer in

Lowndes County, Alabama

Thomas Lemuel Coleman, a good old boy from southern Alabama, died during the summer of 1997. He was 86 years old and had worked most of his life as an employee of the state highway department. His family had deep roots in Lowndes County, a red-clay farming area just south of Montgomery. The county seat is in Coleman's hometown of Hayneville, a town of 936 souls. Its nickname was "Bloody Lowndes," a place where, as one observer put it, "a black man who lived to be 21 was 'a good nigger.'"

Tom Coleman's death is a reminder of America's confrontation with massive injustice. The brief history needs to be recalled lest even the best of us forget.

Although more than 70 percent of the population of Lowndes County was black in 1965, white supremacy was the cornerstone of law and society. According to Charles W. Eagles, a professor of history at the University of Mississippi, "Violence served to support white supremacy, slavery, peonage, and segregation."

For more than a century, white people controlled Lowndes County. Coleman's ancestors were an integral part of that control. His father had allegedly taken part in a vigilante lynching and likely served on juries that sentenced blacks to death for petty crimes while acquitting whites who had lynched blacks. During a to a prison farm, Tom Coleman himself had killed a black prisoner whom he judged had threatened him.

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From the day he was born, Coleman's life embodied segregation and the entire culture that surrounded it. His was not a philosophical or rational position; it was reactive, almost involuntary. The county employed no blacks, except school teachers. No black had been registered to vote in the 20th century. In fact, a popular saying among whites was that any black who tried to register would be dead by nightfall. Although no lynchings had taken place in more than 20 years, such axioms were part of the folklore of violence that served to keep the "colored" in their place.

It's not likely that Coleman's passing would have been marked outside of Hayneville--much less made it into the obituary page of the New York Times--if he hadn't used his 12-gauge shotgun to tear a young Episcopal seminarian's body almost in two and to rip open the back of a young Chicago priest, leaving him with a lifetime handicap.

After Coleman put down his shotgun, he called his friend Colonel Al Lingo, state-trooper commander in Montgomery, and calmly informed him: "I just shot two preachers. You better get down here." In the weeks that followed, American justice would be abused beyond understanding.

Coleman, then a 55-year-old deputy sheriff, spent 11 hours in jail and was released on bond. The subsequent trial before 12 white jurors would hear 53 minutes of testimony and deliberate for 90 minutes before reaching a unanimous verdict: Tom Coleman was not guilty.

He would spend the next three decades playing dominoes with his courthouse cronies. According to his sister, Hulde, his friends made a point not to discuss the event. If asked, he would answer that he would do it all over again.

Those who went before

Jonathan Daniels was one of five civil-rights martyrs in 1965 and one of 40 who gave their lives between 1955 and 1968, so that people could enjoy such basic rights as a seat on a bus, a stool at a lunch counter, a textbook in a school with indoor plumbing, or a voting ballot.

The worst incident perhaps was the 1963 slaughter of four young girls outside the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. A Klan bomb, planted under a stone staircase just outside the church, exploded, killing the four and injuring 20 more. Only a single Klansman was caught; he died in jail shortly after. "God still has a way of wringing good out of evil," the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said at the girls' funeral. "Indeed, this tragic event may cause the white South to come to terms with its conscience."

The roots of the civil-rights movement could be said to date to May 17, 1954, when the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in schools in the case of Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka. One year later, the first of the 40 martyrs was killed. The Rev. George Lee, who had persuaded 92 blacks to register to vote in Belzoni, Mississippi, had half his face blown apart by a shotgun blast from a passing car. The sheriff ruled that his death was caused by unknown causes and that the lead pellets in his face were probably dental fillings.

Although the laws were on the books as early as 1882, full integration is still an unfulfilled ideal more than a century later. The 13th Amendment to the Constitution

#### Untitled

outlawed slavery, the 14th protected the rights of the newly freed slaves, and the 15th gave blacks the right to vote. Yet, between 1882 and 1901, nearly 2,000 blacks were lynched.

In 1896, a new interpretation was introduced. The Supreme Court gave its approval to Jim Crow segregation in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, saying as long as separate treatment was equal, it was legal. In reality, of course, nothing was remotely equal. By the time the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was 10 years old in 1920, the Ku Klux Klan boasted more than 2 million members.

In 1955, seamstress Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white man. The 381-day Montgomery bus boycott that followed captured the imagination of the weary black community. It took nearly a year for the Supreme Court to outlaw segregation on city buses.

Again, the issues appeared small. But they reached inside souls. In 1960, for example, four black students sat down at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. "We don't serve the colored here," they were told. They sat quietly until the store closed. Within one year, 20,000 had participated in sit-ins; 3,600 of them were arrested.

In 1957, Congress passed the first Civil Rights Act since Reconstruction. In that same year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to open school doors to African Americans. In December 1960, the Supreme Court outlawed segregation in bus terminals, and by 1962, the campus at Mississippi State was the scene of a riot as James Meredith attempted to enroll. It took 300 federal marshals--28 of whom were shot and 150 of whom were injured--and it cost the life of a French reporter, Paul Guihard, who was found shot in the back. (Meredith would live to graduate but would be shot and wounded four years later during a one-man march through Mississippi.)

In June 1963, Alabama Governor George Wallace blocked the schoolhouse door to stop integration at the university. A few days later, civil-rights activist Medgar Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. His murderer was freed twice by hung juries, but 31 years later, new evidence finally sent him to jail.

In 1964, the payment of the poll tax prior to voting was outlawed in federal elections, and during "Freedom Summer" at least 1,000 volunteers went to Mississippi to recruit voters. Three of them were slain by the Klan, but shortly after that President Johnson signed another Civil Rights Bill, and Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

So it went: judicial gavels sounding new legislation, and shotguns responding with fatal accuracy.

Then, in 1965, came Jonathan Daniels and Richard Morrisroe.

In the line of fire

Jonathan Daniels was born in 1939 in Keene, New Hampshire, the son of a physician and a school teacher. He enrolled in Virginia Military Institute and later did graduate studies at Harvard, but, following a profound spiritual experience, he decided on ministry. Daniels was 26 and a student at the Episcopal seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts when King issued his nationwide call for clergy of all faiths to come to Selma, Alabama to support the voting-rights marchers. When the march was over, he decided to stay and work in Alabama.

Dick Morrisroe was raised in an Irish Catholic family near Chicago's Loop. Ordained in 1964, he asked to be assigned to a black parish. At the 2,000-member St. Columbanus Parish on Chicago's South Side, he met Sam Rayner, whose funeral home was just across the street. Rayner took the young priest to hear King and introduced him to the Catholic Interracial Council. Even before leaving Chicago for Fort Deposit,



#### Untitled

Alabama, Morrisroe had been arrested in Chicago for participating in a lie-down.

Neither Daniels nor Morrisroe had planned on taking part in the demonstration at Fort Deposit. A group of black teenagers was going to picket white-owned stores that discriminated against blacks. Fort Deposit was a Klan stronghold, armed and angry, especially about "outside agitators." But the two clergymen gave the young activists a ride, and once there, they decided to join the protest. They were quickly arrested with 30 marchers for allegedly violating a 1963 ordinance that forbade protests that lasted more than five minutes.

The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover refused to intervene, claiming that they were in Fort Deposit to observe, not to protect. The protesters were arrested together with Stokely Carmichael and Christopher Wylie of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. They were driven 20 miles to Hayneville and tossed in jail. Later, five young blacks were released because they were underage. The authorities refused to believe that the youthful Morrisroe was a priest. Daniels' Episcopal friends offered to bail him out, but he refused. They spent six days in a dirty prison with overflowing toilets.

At 2 p.m. on August 20, the group was released without explanation. Daniels and Morrisroe walked some 100 yards to Highway 97. They were in need of a ride back to Fort Deposit and were looking for a telephone. Two of the young women, Ruby Sales and Joyce Bailey, accompanied them, hoping to purchase a soft drink.

Coleman had been hanging around the courthouse, playing dominoes with his cronies and listening to the talk about the protesters. He had left his pistol and shotgun in the small, clapboard Cash Store just off the highway. When the group approached, he grabbed his shotgun and shouted, "Get off this property or I'll blow your [expletive] heads off, you [expletive]!"

Daniels saw the shotgun and pushed Sales out of the way, shielding her body with his. Coleman abruptly fired. The buckshot tore a hole in the side of his chest, killing him instantly.

Morrisroe grabbed Bailey's hand to pull her away even as he appeared to be running to help Daniels. Coleman's second blast caught him in his lower right back and side. Later that day it would take 11 hours to dig the shot out of his back. He would spend seven months in Alabama and Chicago hospitals. Despite years of outpatient therapy at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, he still walks with a distinctive limp.

#### The trial

The trial was a textbook example of justice denied by deep-rooted racial hatred. Judge T. Werth Thagard, who had been elected with Coleman's help, presided. The defense lawyer, Robert Coleman Black, was Coleman's nephew. Even the prosecutors, Arthur Gamble and Carlton Perdue, were friends of his. The all-white jury was composed mostly of jurors who had served many times before. During the preceding eight years, only seven blacks had done jury duty from the 2,748 who were called. African Americans far outnumbered whites in Lowndes County, but even the most illiterate among them could speed-read the Klan writings on the wall.

Coleman's defense team claimed 46 that he was protecting Virginia Varner, the owner of the Cash Store. Two men testified that they had seen weapons--a gun and a knife--in the hands of the seminarian and the priest. No weapons were ever found. The prosecution claimed that the black youths had removed them. The judge refused to delay the trial until Morrisroe could leave the hospital.

Morrisroe's absence made the victims seem even more invisible. At break time, prosecution lawyers and the judge could be seen mingling with the jury. A juror winked at Coleman. State Attorney General Richmond Flowers, who tried mightily for a new trial, called it "a Klan murder."

To carry on

## Untitled

Did any good come of it all? It's difficult to measure precisely, but some minds and many more hearts were changed. The ripple effect of the sea of red blood on the red soil is still occurring.

In a legal case, *White v. Crook*, the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity and the ACLU challenged the exclusion of women and blacks from the jury system. Their victory set a precedent for other districts. Voter registration received much more support from the federal government, and some black groups, such as the Lowndes County Freedom Organization, helped to elect black officials.

More confident blacks began to put shotguns in their pickup trucks, a privilege once reserved to whites. Soon, the vastly outnumbered whites wisely replaced their shotguns with fishing rods, and the blacks did the same.

The federal government took another look at the separate-but-equal schools and upgraded them. Federal funds magically appeared to pave streets and to install water and sewers. A \$1 million grant from the Office of Economic Opportunity made possible a health center, ironically right next to the county jail. A Headstart program was established, and blacks gradually began to attend public schools with whites. Within 15 years of the shooting, 70 percent of the county's homes had full plumbing, more than double the number in 1965. Blacks voted freely, held elective office, served on juries, and now live without violence. The Klan has virtually disappeared. Per capita black income has risen from \$935 to \$7,493 per year.

It isn't perfect, but it's no longer Tom Coleman's county.

Jonathan Daniels was buried in Keene on the Tuesday following the shooting. After the Episcopal service, as the 800 mourners drifted away, one could hear Stokely Carmichael and others singing "We Shall Overcome." His parish named a church building after him, and a local elementary school bears his name. Fifteen years later, the Anglican Church included him in its Canon of Saints and Martyrs.

Ruby Sales, the young woman for whom Daniels sacrificed his life, is now a student at the Episcopal Divinity School at Cambridge, Daniels' alma mater.

Richard Morrisroe, who supplied most of the details of this article, returned to Chicago. He resigned from active ministry in 1972 and earned a second master's degree in urban studies from Loyola University and a J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law. Today, he is a staff attorney for the Chicago Transit Authority, a part-time professor at Calumet College of St. Joseph, and a doctorate student in ministry at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He and his wife, Sylvia, have two children.

In August 1997, a month after Coleman died, a monument to Jonathan Myrick Daniels was dedicated in Hayneville Square. Morrisroe attended and spoke.

"Jon was too young to die," he said. "But he was also too young to accept the false boundaries between black and white, South and North, city preachers, college students, and tenant farmers.... As we cradle his memory, we strive to inspire our youth to carry on Jonathan Daniels' courage and faith."

By Tim Unsworth, a freelance writer living in Chicago and a frequent contributor to U.S. CATHOLIC. His most recent book is *I Am Your Brother Joseph: Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago*.

Attached below are the Cold Cases that the CRU needs to review. Any questions regarding these questions should be directed to SSA [redacted] before we arrive.

Thanks, [redacted]

SSA [redacted]  
Civil Rights Unit Rm. 3973  
(O) 202-324-[redacted]  
(C) [redacted]

b6  
b7C

From: [redacted] (CID) (FBI)  
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 10:07 AM  
To: [redacted] (CID) (FBI); [redacted] (CID) (FBI)  
Subject: Mobile Cold Case Review

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UNCLASSIFIED  
NON-RECORD

Here are the cold cases for mobile:

VICTIM	MOBILE CASE #:
FRANK ANDREWS	282A-MO-45943 - CIA - closed
HILIARD BROOKS	282A-MO-45939 - closed - 3-11-09 DOJ CLOSING
JONATHAN DANIELS	282A-MO-45946 - closed - 3-11-09
WILLIE EDWARDS	44A-MO-45944
ROGERS HAMILTON	44A-MO-45945
JIMMIE LEE JACKSON	282A-MO-45941 - CIA - [redacted] Review initiated
BESSIE MCDOWELL	44A-MO-45950 - DOJ CLOSING - closed - 3-11
JAMES EARL MOTLEY	282A-MO-45940
JAMES REEB	44A-MO-45942 - CIA - [redacted] Review initiated
RODELL WILLIAMSON	? 44-A never opened
ARCHIE WOODEN	? 44-A never opened
SAMUEL YOUNGE	44A-MO-46084 - closed 3/2/09

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Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

282A-MO-45946-7

UNCLASSIFIED

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 04/22/2009

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: Civil Rights Unit  
SSA [REDACTED]

From: Mobile

Montgomery RA

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 282A-MO-45946 (Pending)

Title: THOMAS LEMUEL COLEMAN;  
JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS - VICTIM;  
CR ERA COLD CASE;  
CR - COL

Synopsis: To identify next of kin for Jonathan Daniels.

Reference: 282A-MO-45946 Serial 1

Details: On 8/20/1965, Daniels was arrested during an demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, Daniels and another demonstrator, [REDACTED] were shot by Lowndes County deputy sheriff Thomas L. Coleman. Daniels died instantly as he shielded the body of [REDACTED] a black female demonstrator. [REDACTED] sustained critical wounds but survived.

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Based primarily on genealogical website and internet search engine results the following information was gathered:

Research on this case was conducted to determine possible next of kin information for Daniels. Daniels Alabama death certificate states that his father's name was Philip Brock Daniels and his mother's name was Constance Daniels (nee Weaver) of Keene, New Hampshire. Daniels was unmarried. Per the website www.familysearch.org, Philip Brock Daniels married Constance Weaver in 1932 and died in 1959. Constance Daniels died January 1984 in Keene, New Hampshire. Per Lexis-Nexis, a Constance Daniels, DOB 08/20/1905, who resided in Keene, New Hampshire, died

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282A-MO-45946-8  
Searched [REDACTED]  
Serialized [REDACTED]  
Indexed [REDACTED]  
Filed [REDACTED]

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112 ad/DI.EC

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 04/22/2009

January 1984. There were no records of a Philip Brock Daniels in Lexis-Nexis.

Several websites made reference to Jonathan Daniels  
[redacted] The website [www.jonathandaniels.org](http://www.jonathandaniels.org),  
states that [redacted] An article  
that appeared in [www.rockbridgeweekly.com](http://www.rockbridgeweekly.com), on March 15, 2006  
titled "VMI to present Humanitarian Award to Andrew Young" states  
that an award named in honor of Jonathan Daniels was being  
presented to former U.S. ambassador Andrew Young. This award  
ceremony was attended by [redacted] identified as living in  
[redacted] and [redacted]  
identified as [redacted] was  
also in attendance, and was identified as living in [redacted]  
[redacted]

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b7C

Per Lexis-Nexis, a [redacted] DOB [redacted]  
resides at [redacted] and a telephone  
number of [redacted]

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b7C

Per Lexis-Nexis, a [redacted] DOB [redacted]  
[redacted] resides at [redacted]  
[redacted] and a telephone number of [redacted]

b6  
b7C

Per Lexis-Nexis, a [redacted] DOB [redacted]  
resides at [redacted] and had previous  
addresses in [redacted] in 2006. Her telephone numbers are  
listed as [redacted] and [redacted].

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To: Criminal Investigative From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 04/22/2009

LEAD(s) :

Set Lead 1: (Discretionary)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit. For information only.

♦♦

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Montgomery, Alabama 36104  
July 1, 2009

Thomas Lemuel Coleman;  
Jonathan Myrick Daniels - Victim;  
CR Era Cold Case;  
CR - COL

In August 1965, Jonathan Daniels, white male, date of birth, March 20, 1939, and a seminary student, was arrested along with approximately 30 other people during a voting rights demonstration in Fort Deposit, Alabama. The group were all taken to the Hayneville, Alabama jail. Daniels, along with [redacted] white male, and Catholic priest, and two young black females were released on August 20, 1965.

Daniels, [redacted] and the two females, were in need of a ride back to Fort Deposit, Alabama. As they searched for a telephone near the courthouse, the females spotted a store and decided to purchase a soft drink. Thomas Coleman a part time Deputy Sheriff for Lowndes County, Alabama, saw the group approach and raised his shotgun. Daniels, was shot to death by Coleman. [redacted] received a shotgun blast to his back as he ran from Coleman.

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Thomas Coleman was indicted for Manslaughter and tried before an all white Lowndes County, Alabama jury. The Attorney General of Alabama at the time, Richmond Flowers, was so outraged that a grand jury indicted Coleman on Manslaughter charges rather than murder, that he took over the prosecution. The trial judge, refused to delay the trial until [redacted] was well enough to testify. Coleman was found not guilty.

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An article written by Tim Unsworth in March 1998 and titled "Murder in black and white", states that Coleman was tried for the death of Daniels and found not guilty. No other individuals were mentioned in the article as suspected of being involved in the shooting.

In a book written by John Hayman titled "Bitter Harvest", Hayman writes that Thomas Coleman was a part time Deputy Sheriff and known as the executioner of Lowndes County. Hayman writes that Coleman was indicted by a Lowndes County

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

282A-MO-45946-10  
Searched  
Indexed  
Filed  
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b7C

195ad04.lhm

One Commerce Street  
Suite 606  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Grand Jury for Manslaughter in September 1965 and subsequently found not guilty by a jury.

An obituary that ran on June 22, 1997 in the New York Times for a Thomas L. Coleman, who died on June 13, 1997 stated in part that Coleman "killed an unarmed civil rights worker then won a jury acquittal by claiming self-defense."

According to a Lexis-Nexis report, a Tom L. Coleman, Date of Birth, September 26, 1910, who resided in Hayneville, in Lowndes County, Alabama, died on June 13, 1997. He was 86 years of age. No other individuals are known to have been involved in the shooting.

No records were located at Lowndes County Circuit Clerks office and no records were located at the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department. There are no records of the indictment or jury trial. Supposedly a fire destroyed the building these records were housed. No records have been located at the Alabama Administrative Office of Records in Montgomery, Alabama and no records have been located at the Alabama Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama. No records were located at the Federal Clerks Office, Montgomery, Alabama.

Research on this case was conducted to determine possible next of kin information for Daniels. Daniels' Alabama death certificate states that his father's name was Philip Brock Daniels and his mother's name was Constance Daniels (nee Weaver) of Keene, New Hampshire. Daniels was unmarried. Per the website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), Philip Brock Daniels married Constance Weaver in 1932 and died in 1959. Per Lexis-Nexis, a Constance Daniels, DOB 08/20/1905, who resided in Keene, New Hampshire, died January 1984. There were no records of a Philip Brock Daniels in Lexis-Nexis.

Several websites made reference to Jonathan Daniels

[redacted] The website [www.jonathandaniels.org](http://www.jonathandaniels.org), states that [redacted]

[redacted] An article that appeared in [www.rockbridgeweekly.com](http://www.rockbridgeweekly.com), on March 15, 2006 titled "VMI to present Humanitarian Award to Andrew Young" states that an award named in honor of Jonathan Daniels was being presented to former U.S. ambassador Andrew Young. This award ceremony was attended by [redacted] identified as living in

b6  
b7c



One Commerce Street  
Suite 606  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

[redacted] and [redacted]  
identified as [redacted]

[redacted] was contacted to verify if she  
was [redacted] stated she  
was [redacted] and was the only surviving  
family member. She described the circumstances of the case  
and believed that Thomas Coleman was the lone gunman that  
murdered [redacted] only concern was that she did  
not understand why [redacted] and the others were released so  
suddenly without giving them an opportunity to call relatives  
to pick them up from jail. She was excited that the DOJ and  
FBI were looking into civil right era cases. [redacted] verified  
her address as [redacted] and  
telephone number [redacted]

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Precedence:** ROUTINE

**Date:** 07/14/2009

**To:** Criminal Investigative Division **Attn:** Civil Rights Unit  
PCCRS/Civil Rights Unit - Room 3973  
**Contact:** SSA [REDACTED]

**From:** Mobile

Montgomery RA

**Contact:** SA [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

**Approved By:** [REDACTED]

**Drafted By:** [REDACTED]

**Case ID #:** 282A-MO-45946 (Pending)

**Title:** THOMAS LEMUEL COLEMAN;  
JONATHAN MYRICK DANIELS - VICTIM;  
CR ERA COLD CASE;  
CR - COL

**Synopsis:** [REDACTED] was contacted to verify if she was the [REDACTED] stated she was the [REDACTED] and was the only surviving family member.

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b7C

**Reference:** 319W-HQ-A1487699-CID

Serial 423

**Enclosure(s):** A summary LHM documenting all investigative efforts.

**Details:** On 8/20/1965, Daniels was arrested during an demonstration and subsequently released from jail. Moments after his release, Daniels and another demonstrator, [REDACTED] were shot by Lowndes County deputy sheriff Thomas L. Coleman. Daniels died instantly. [REDACTED] sustained critical wounds but survived.

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Based primarily on newspaper articles and internet search engine results the following information was gathered:

Research on this case was conducted to determine possible subjects. Per Lexis-Nexis, a Tom L. Coleman, DOB 11/26/1910, who resided in Hayneville, in Lowndes County, AL, died 06/13/1997. An obituary that ran on 06/22/1997 in the New York Times for a Thomas L. Coleman, who died

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282A-MO-45946-11  
Searched  
Serialized  
Indexed  
Filed

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To: Civil Rights Unit  
From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 07/14/2009

on 06/13/1997, stated in part that Coleman "killed an unarmed civil right; worker then won a jury acquittal by claiming self-defense." Coleman was the only subject identified in this case.

Attached is a Letter Head Memorandum detailing the facts of the case. [redacted] was contacted to verify if she was the [redacted] [redacted] stated she was [redacted] [redacted] and was the only surviving family member.

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It is requested the case be closed.

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To: Civil Rights Unit  
From: Mobile  
Re: 282A-MO-45946, 07/14/2009

Set Lead 1: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Info)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit. For information only.

♦♦

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